

NOV - 3 2016

October 31, 2016

Yellowstone County Commissioners  
217 North 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Billings, MT 59101

*O. Teri ✓*

LOCKWOOD TARGETED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Dear Commissioners:


The Lockwood Steering Committee is aware of the Yellowstone County Commissioner's current consideration of the creation of a Targeted Economic Development District (TEDD) in Lockwood. The Lockwood Steering Committee includes representatives from the districts serving Lockwood and at large representatives of the Lockwood community. On behalf of the Lockwood Steering Committee, we would like to express our support for the creation of the Lockwood TEDD.

Big Sky Economic Development has been working with the Lockwood Community on the development of an industrial park for over two years. Big Sky Economic Development has held public meetings in our community and presented updates to local districts and the Steering Committee periodically. They have responded to questions and concerns and addressed them through those meetings. The final boundary of the TEDD is well thought out, has property owner approval and is of a reasonable size (570 acres with 293 acres developable) to accommodate business growth without unduly limiting taxing jurisdictions.

Additionally, several district representatives serve on the TEDD Steering Committee. The area will provide planned growth in the area through a thoughtful process to improve infrastructure deficiencies based on area needs and increase the option for development of area properties. Planned growth will provide structure to development instead of the scattered approach that is currently taking place where businesses sometimes locate next to a school or residential parcel where compatibility is not ideal.

We encourage the Commission to approve the creation of the Lockwood TEDD.

Sincerely,

  
Bob Riehl  
Chairman